

University Avenue Central Corridor Task Force
January 11, 2007
Central Corridor Resource Center
Meeting Summary

University Task Force members present: Veronica Burt, Julie Causey (co-chair), James Erkel, Joan Grzywinski, Courtney Henry, Vatou Her, Juan Linares, Seitu Jones, Richard Kleinbaum, Byron Moore, Marilyn Porter (co-chair), Nieeta Presley, Jonathan Sage-Martinson, Robert Straughn,, Anne White

University Task Force members absent: Reggie Aligada (co-chair), Betty Charles, Mai Thor, Bao Vang, Brian Winkelaar

Staff present: Donna Drummond, Shawntera Hardy, Allen Lovejoy, Va-Megn Thoj

Others present: George Johnson (Planning Commission), Sarah Penman, Joe Samuel, Paul Heitzinger, Helen Elizabeth Proechel, Linda Jungwirth, Stuart Goldberg, Brian Alton (Planning Commission), Carol Swenson, Jo Haberman

The meeting was called to order by co-chair Julie Causey. She welcomed everyone, asked them to introduce themselves, and briefly reviewed the agenda for the day. The Dec. 14 meeting summary was accepted with no comments or corrections.

There was a general discussion about schedule and process. The following comments were made and questions asked. Questions are followed by responses from City staff present.

- Where do the district plans fit in? The draft plans that have been completed by district councils and submitted to the City are in various stages of review. Planning staff are processing them as time permits. Plans are being reviewed against the current citywide Comprehensive Plan chapters and the emerging Development Strategy work to ensure there aren't conflicts. Proposals in district plans for property rezonings along the corridor will wait for coordination with the work on the Development Strategy and followup zoning study that will be done.
- What is the process once the task forces agree on and recommend a Development Strategy? The recommendations will be submitted to the Planning Commission for review and a public hearing. The Development Strategy, with the Planning Commission's recommendations, will be submitted to the Mayor and City Council. There will be another public hearing at the City Council. The intent is for the Central Corridor Development Strategy to be adopted as a chapter of the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- Will final adoption have to wait until the entire Comp. Plan is updated and adopted (scheduled for end of '08)? No. The intent is to have the Development Strategy adopted as part of the Comp. Plan in spring '07.
- When is a good time to discuss an interim ordinance again? Does this need to go with the Development Strategy to the Planning Commission? No, a recommendation for an interim ordinance (to regulate development) would go directly to the Mayor and City Council for consideration.
- Can City staff and/or Urban Strategies develop a draft interim ordinance for consideration by the task force? Yes, the staff can do this based on the recommendations in the Development Strategy.
- Will Urban Strategies be making zoning recommendations? The draft Development Strategy will include recommendations for needed changes to the City's Zoning Code to implement the Strategy. There will not be recommendations for specific property rezonings.
- A number of task force members expressed an interest in having staff develop a draft interim ordinance for consideration after the Development Strategy recommendations are finalized.

Donna Drummond presented the draft Table of Contents for the Development Strategy and identified where work previously developed by Urban Strategies would fit in.

There was then a general discussion of what needs to happen after the Development Strategy is completed (termed Phase II). The group reviewed a diagram prepared and presented by Allen Lovejoy. The diagram included work needed in the following areas: station area plans; special studies; regulatory (zoning) controls; housing; and business/workforce inclusion. He indicated there is a tremendous amount of work to be done in the next couple of years, and has roughly estimated the need at 7 FTE staff. The entire City planning staff is about 11, so additional resources will be needed to complete all this work. Al has estimated the cost of this work at \$1-2 million.

These questions/comments followed:

- How will housing policies be addressed in the Development Strategy? Recommendations that affect citywide housing policy should be directed to the task force that is updating the Housing Plan chapter of the Comp. Plan.
- Perhaps funding for all this work, and possible resources for it, should be represented by its own box on the diagram.
- What is the difference between park & ride and park & hide? The former is an organized system of parking facilities intended for people parking at stations to ride the LRT. The latter is when informal, unintended, or illegal parking occurs by LRT riders. The Hiawatha experience is that most park & hiders are people who live within a mile of a station, not distant commuters. So far, there are no plans for park & ride facilities for Central Corridor, although some people feel this issue needs to be revisited.
- What about “kiss & ride” (drop off areas for LRT commuters)? This is definitely on the list of things to consider in station design.
- Are circulators being discussed? There have been periodic discussions at the city level about the need for circulators. The City’s comments on the EIS suggested looking at a circulator to replace the old #74 bus line (service to the residential high rises). We also need to be pushing for good north-south bus service. Karen Lyons, Met. Council staff, indicated they would be doing a bus service enhancement plan as part of the Central Corridor planning.

There was discussion about what should be covered at the Jan. 25th meeting. There was a request to get the list of 84+ strategies from Urban Strategies for discussion prior to receiving the entire draft development strategy. The group decided it would be helpful to have more discussion about building heights and density, the 84+ strategies, and the vision-principles-objectives-strategies list. Julie Causey asked everyone to bring their materials with them to the Jan. 25 meeting. She also encouraged all task force members to attend one or more of the upcoming open houses. She said it’s very helpful to be able to talk one-on-one to community members.

Veronica Burt (representing a sub-group of the task force) and Jo Haberman (representing the University Ave. Community Coalition) both distributed recommendations for concepts/language for consideration by the task force as it finalizes the Development Strategy. The group decided to discuss both of these submittals at the Jan. 25 task force meeting.

The group also discussed the meeting schedule. One member has requested that the group consider rotating days of the week because Thursdays are not good for his schedule. The group decided to keep the Jan. 25 meeting date, since it was only 2 weeks away, but will discuss the March schedule at the next meeting. The scheduled mid-February meeting date of Feb. 14 is on a Wednesday.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.

Meeting summary prepared by Donna Drummond, PED planning staff.